

2006 Local Accomplishments

AID FOR TOWNS IN THE 20TH SENATE DISTRICT

A very important part of my job representing the people of the 20th state Senate District is ensuring East Lyme, Montville, New London, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Salem and Waterford receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state:

Total Education Grants	\$45,483,763	This funding is an increase of \$3,440,549 over last year's total
Town Aid Road Fund (TAR)	\$1,005,479	
Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Grants	\$5,625,621	
Local Capital Improvements (LoCIP)	\$840,701	
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$9,654,071	
Extra Property Tax Relief for 2006	\$811,900	
Totals	\$63,421,534	

Protecting Long Island Sound

I am currently vice-chair of the LNG Task Force which was established to review the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project in Long Island Sound in order to protect Connecticut residents. The Task Force held a series of informational hearings and public meetings to determine the potential impact of the proposed construction of an LNG processing facility in Long Island Sound. The task force issued a preliminary report in March which detailed a number of concerns. I remain deeply committed to ensuring that Long Island Sound's delicate ecological balance is protected.



Improving Schools

Students across the 20th District will benefit from important school construction projects that have been approved by the legislature. The legislation authorizes \$10.9 million for projects at Old Saybrook Middle School, Quaker Hill Elementary in Waterford, Lillie B. Haynes School in East Lyme, the Science and Technology Magnet School in New London and the Waterford/New London Early Childhood Magnet School. Also approved were 5 projects in Montville including the Montville Alternative School, Montville High School, Murphy Elementary, Oakdale Elementary and Tyl Middle School.

Supporting Farmers and Preserving Farmland

Rural portions of the 20th Senate District will benefit from Connecticut's efforts to promote Connecticut-grown farm products. New legislation requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a campaign to promote the advantages of purchasing locally grown products. In addition, we expanded the types of products that can be sold at farmers' markets.



A Message to My Constituents



Dear Neighbors,

On May 3rd, the 2006 legislative session came to a close. Our state Constitution dictates the beginning and closing times for each legislative session, and this year was the shortest possible—only 85 days. In this short time, the General Assembly passed significant initiatives to make Connecticut a better place to work, live and educate our children. I have included some highlights of the session in this newsletter.

I am especially proud that a bipartisan budget was adopted that provides tax relief for real estate and businesses while returning money to cities and towns to help hold down local property taxes. This includes an increase—from \$400 to \$500—on the state property tax credit.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Andrea
Andrea Stillman
State Senator, 20th District

Stay Informed...

For the latest information on the issues affecting your district, please visit my Web site:
www.senatedems.ct.gov/Stillman.html



TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION on any of the following issues, fill out this form and mail it to me, e-mail or call my office. Make sure to give your name and mailing address and indicate which issues you're interested in. My contact information is on the mailing address panel.

- ☐ Seniors
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Land Use
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Crime
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Children
- ☐ Municipalities

Name:

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I'm proud to represent the 20th state Senate District which includes the communities of East Lyme, Montville, New London, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Salem & Waterford

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CONNECTICUT JOBS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

2006 Legislative Initiatives

A recent study probably shocked the state with the information that since 1991, Connecticut has experienced no net job growth. My Senate Democratic colleagues and I initiated a comprehensive plan to address the need for job growth in order to steer our state toward a brighter future. Our legislative package invests in education, jobs, university/business partnerships, transportation improvements, and the promotion of promising fuel cell technologies that have been developed right here in our own backyard.

Highlights of our successful initiative include:

- **Elimination of the Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment property tax** to attract more manufacturing jobs to Connecticut, especially the cutting-edge, precision manufacturing that is critical to our future economy
- **Tax incentives to attract movie companies** to film their productions here in Connecticut
- **Linking promising new businesses to the university expertise** that can help bring innovative products to market
- **A Center for Entrepreneurship** that will assist promising technologies—including fuel cells—develop right here in our state
- **More funding for incumbent worker training programs**, provided by regional workforce development boards, to help workers learn new and valuable skills
- **Creation of business incubators to help grow the small business ideas** that will fuel our future economy and improve job creation across the state
- **Development Research and Economic Assistance Matching (DREAM) grants** that supplement and increase small businesses' access to federal research grants
- **A Business Advocate's office** to serve as a one-stop contact point for businesses to access government assistance and cut through red tape
- **Encouraging more engineering and doctoral research graduates to stay and work in Connecticut** through a 'Scholar-to-Work' system which ensures that innovation and creativity will remain a hallmark of Connecticut's future in the growing world marketplace
- **Partnerships between local schools and businesses** to help more students master math and science as building blocks to careers in competitive fields
- **Teacher 'externships'** that help link the skills taught in classrooms to those sought by employers, and providing opportunities for students to participate in internship and job-shadow experiences that will help them build relevant job skills
- **Asserting Connecticut's position as a global leader in the fuel cell industry** by improving clean energy alternatives in ways that grow jobs in this highly skilled sector
- **Promoting nanotechnology**—an industry that works at the molecular level—to establish Connecticut as a leader in developing complex materials sold to businesses around the world



STATE SENATOR ANDREA STILLMAN 20TH DISTRICT



Working for Connecticut's Future

Hospital-Acquired Infections

We have all heard about people who went into hospitals to get better, but unfortunately developed new infections after being admitted. A new law will create a reporting system, providing the public with necessary information to compare infection rates at health care facilities in Connecticut. The system may also provide information about methods used to prevent the spread of infection. Beginning October 2008, this information will be published on a state Web site.

Taking a Stand Against Underage Drinking

House parties pose a significant risk to our young people who consume alcohol on private property. The General Assembly passed a new law this session that makes it a crime to knowingly allow underage drinking on your private property or to do nothing to prevent such activity. Common sense exceptions for religious observances and parental discretion are included in the new law. This legislation also extends the law prohibiting the possession of alcohol by a minor on public property to all private property as well.

Trafficking in Persons

The story of young women being taken from their native lands and forced into prostitution may sound like a movie plot, but unfortunately it is all too real in our state and across the country. These women are lured to our country by the prospect of a new life only to find that they are just a commodity once they arrive. These women are often forced into prostitution or slave labor with no idea of how to escape. Law enforcement now has a new tool to fight this epidemic by making a new crime of "Trafficking in Persons" a Class B felony. This new law also provides funding for witness protection and services for victims.

Lung Cancer Awareness and Umbilical Cord Blood

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for both men and women. A new law designates November as Lung Cancer Awareness Month to increase public awareness about lung cancer and its associated risk factors. The law also establishes a committee to examine the possibility of Connecticut establishing a public umbilical cord blood bank. Umbilical cord blood, rich in stem cells, holds great promise for treating and possibly curing diseases.



Recognizing Our Veterans

The debt owed our state's veterans can never be paid in full. During the 2006 session, the legislature continued to recognize the service of our brave men and women by passing new laws aimed at paying part of this debt. These new laws include exempting disability payments from determining eligibility for certain income based property tax exemptions for veterans, extending the same protections to state service members assigned to state duties as they would be entitled to on federal duty, and expanding the definition of veteran to include reservists and National Guardsmen.

Clean Cars

The increased concentration of greenhouse gases—including carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides—in our atmosphere has the potential to negatively affect our climate. Since our vehicles emit these harmful gases, we passed legislation establishing a labeling program for

new cars sold or leased for model years 2009 or later. The label will include a "greenhouse gas score" to help educate consumers on which vehicles are more environmentally sound and which have less of a detrimental impact.

Study of Ethanol

Gasoline in Connecticut contains ethanol as an additive, a recent switch from MTBE. A new law requires the state Departments of Public Health and Environmental Protection to study the use of ethanol as a gasoline additive in Connecticut. The study will include the public health implications and motor vehicle emissions associated with the use of ethanol.

Energy Efficiency

To help residents with energy costs, we passed legislation last October that exempted certain weatherization products—such as insulation, programmable thermostats, and energy-efficient furnaces and boilers—from the state sales tax. This session, we extended the exemption until June 30, 2007. We also passed legislation that requires certain state construction projects to meet stricter energy and environmental standards. This will help save state taxpayers money while promoting energy efficiency.

Campaign Finance Reform and Ethics

We continued to strengthen our ethics laws in response to unprecedented corruption that occurred in our state. Legislation this year prohibits a governor's spouse from receiving honoraria and bans a governor from lobbying the state for at least one year after leaving office. We also continued to improve our strongest-in-the-nation campaign finance reform legislation by protecting the system's integrity in the event of a court challenge and further limiting political action committees (PACs).

Roadmap to Connecticut's Economic Future

The gridlock that clogs our highways poses a significant threat to Connecticut's economic future. The General Assembly passed ground-breaking legislation that makes major investments in mass transit and plans for our future transportation infrastructure. This new act provides \$1 billion for targeted transportation projects and commits \$1.3 billion for future projects including:

- The creation of the New Haven to Springfield Commuter Rail, creation of the New Britain to Hartford Busway, and significant improvements to branch lines, rail stations and parking facilities on the New Haven line and Shoreline East.
- The commissioning of several studies regarding the current state of our infrastructure and potential new initiatives including targeted road expansions and commuter rail in Eastern Connecticut such as: New London to Worcester commuter rail, Old Saybrook to Hartford commuter rail, I-95 expansion from Branford to the Rhode Island border, and the potential for expanding Route 9.
- A state commitment to the Southeastern Connecticut Tourist Transit project currently receiving federal pilot money. This state-of-the-art bus system will serve New London-, Norwich, Mystic and major tourist destinations in Southeastern Connecticut.